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REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated April 6, 2005. Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 2, 3, and 24, canceled Claims 4, 10 and 16 and added new Claims 29-31. Reconsideration of the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended Claim 24 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hanson et al.* (*Hanson*) in view of *Jacobs et al.* (*Jacobs*). Applicants respectfully traverse. Claim 22 includes the step of organizing the message in one or more of a plurality of categories. This limitation was not addressed in the Official Action. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 22 is distinguishable from the combination of the *Hanson* and *Jacobs* references as there has been no indication that these references disclose the step of organizing the message in one or more of a plurality of categories. A Notice of Allowance for Claim 22, and all claims dependent therefrom, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hanson* in view of *Jacobs*. Applicants assume that the rejection was further in view of *Grauman* as this reference is discussed in the Official Action. Claim 1 was amended to more particularly recite that the graphical user interface which is modified by the first user at a first location includes a graphical object and a data object. The data object includes all data needed to parameterize the graphical component of the modified graphical user interface such that the second user can recreate the modified graphical user interface. Furthermore, Claim 1 includes the step of generating the graphical object and the modified graphical user interface at the second user at a second location from the data object and enabling substantially simultaneous viewing of the modified graphical user interface at the first and the second locations. Claim 1 also discloses sending the message to the at least one second user if the at least one

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second user is connected to the server. Applicants respectfully submit that their limitations are not disclosed by the combination of *Hanson*, *Jacobs* and *Grauman*.

The Official Action has indicated that these steps are not disclosed by the *Hanson* and *Jacobs* reference. The *Grauman* reference describes a method for controlling the formatting of an email message that is transmitted to a third party. When the email is created the author of the email may select a format for display of the email when it is received at a third party's computer. This selected format information is included within the header information of the transmitted email. This header information is used to control the manner in which the email is displayed within a third party's email reader when the email is received by the third party. This process is significantly different than that now described with respect to Claim 1. Claim 1 describes that the data object is recreated from the message in said first format. Additionally, the graphical object and the modified graphical user interface are generated at the second user at a second location from the data object. The format header information in the *Grauman* reference is merely stored along with the other header information of a transmitted email. It is not changed from a first format. This header information is then used to control only the format in which the message is displayed at a third party. The header information is not used to generate both a graphical object and a data object comprising a modified graphical user interface at the second user from the data object. In Applicants' Claim 1, the entire modified graphical user interface is recreated from the data object, and the recreated modified graphical user interface is recreated by generating both the graphical object and the data object from the received data object. This is different from a process of merely extracting header information from a received email and using this header information to control the format in which the email is displayed. The header information merely controls the manner in which an email is displayed and does not in any way comprise data making up the email. The additional information required for the creation of the received email also requires the additional header information and the data information comprising the transmitted email. Thus, the *Grauman* reference teaches providing significantly less information than that that is described with respect to Applicants' Claim 1.

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Additionally, Claim 1 recites enabling the first user to modify at a first location a graphical user interface of <u>any of a plurality of applications</u>. *Grauman* only describes its process with respect to an email application. Thus, Claim 1 provides a much broader applicability than what is taught by *Grauman*. Furthermore, Claim 1 recites sending the message to at least one second user at the second location if the second user is connected to the server. *Grauman* describes a pull operation wherein the user must request their email from the server. Claim 1 only requires the user to be connected to the server. The user does not have to request the message containing the data object. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, are distinguishable from the art of record and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 includes the step of modifying a graphical user interface component, including a graphical object and a data object, wherein the graphical object generates a graphical component of the graphical user interface and the data object includes all data needed to parameterize the graphical user interface of the modified graphical user such that the second user can recreate the modified graphical user interface. As discussed above with respect to Claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Official Action has admitted that this limitation is not disclosed by the *Hanson* and *Jacobs* references. The *Grauman* reference only describes the inclusion of additional formatting headers within a transmitted email to control the manner in which the format of the email is displayed at a third party. The headers information described in the *Grauman* reference does not include a graphical object and a data object, wherein the data object includes <u>all data needed</u> to parameterize the graphical component of the modified graphical user interface such that the user can recreate the modified graphical user interface. Nor does *Grauman* enable a user to modify any of a plurality of applications. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 2, and all claims dependent therefrom, are distinguishable from the art of record and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 includes limitations similar to those described with respect to Claim 1. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 3 is allowable over the cited references for reasons similar to those of Claim 1. A Notice of Allowance for Claim 3, and all claims dependent therefrom, is respectfully requested.

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Applicants further respectfully submit that there is no suggestion within either of the *Hanson* and the *Grauman* references for combining the references with each other. The *Hanson* reference describes a method for communicating information among a number of participants. Portions of this distributed information may be dynamically updated by members of the group. The *Grauman* reference describes a method for graphically formatting email messages and planting this data within headers. There is nothing within either of the references to suggest combining the two references. The combination of the two references merely reflects the use of Applicants' disclosure to suggest the combination thereof. The Official Action statement that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement *Grauman's* teaching in the computer system of *Hanson* because it would allow email messages to be displayed consistently in different computer programs is not suggested by either of the teachings of *Hanson* or *Grauman*. *Hanson* describes a method for communicating information amongst a group of users. Nothing within *Hanson* indicates a desire or a need for the information to be consistently displayed in different computer programs of the user. While the *Grauman* reference describes a method for graphically formatting email messages such the e-envelope in which the email appears in a third party's email leader in a format selected by the sender. There is nothing in the *Grauman* reference to suggest that there is a desire to transmit consistently displayed email messages amongst a group of users. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that there is no suggestion within either of the *Grauman* or *Hanson* references for a combination of the references. In view of the foregoing amendments and comments, the Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are distinguishable from the art of record and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Applicants have now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of the claims as amended. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/NEXU-26,962 of HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
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